

Berkeley - Description

BERKELEY ADVANCES

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In order to render a maximum of service for each tax dollar expended, the government of the City of Berkeley is constantly striving for increased efficiency of operation, under a carefully planned and controlled budgetary procedure, and through the adoption of progressive administrative methods. As a citizen of Berkeley the following highlights of your city government will invite your attention:

The tax rate has been reduced from \$1.53 in 1929-30 to \$1.36 in 1936-37.

The city has begun an intensive program toward the elimination of poorly-kept street car tracks on the principal streets of the city. The Alameda and University Avenues are good examples.

1936 saw the completion of a new and modern fire house at the corner of Ninth and Cedar streets, thus providing increased fire protection for the western or industrial section of the city.

Berkeley had the lowest per capita fire loss of any city in the United States for the year 1936. [Figures from the National Board of Fire Underwriters.]

Berkeley has strictly adhered to a policy of cash payments in meeting all bills and interest on bond amortization.

Berkeley continues to be one of the lowest per capita cost municipalities in California.

This year will see the completion of the Berkeley Yacht Harbor and virtual completion of the Aquatic Park in realization of the million dollar program under WPA for the improvement of the Berkeley waterfront. Expense to the local tax payer has been extremely small.



Nineteen hundred and five persons enjoyed vacations at Berkeley's three municipal family camps, Echo Lake, Tolumne, and Cazadero, during 1936. An even greater attendance is anticipated for the coming vacation period and reservations can now be made.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN BERKELEY'S MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

Ninety thousand feet of concrete curbing were constructed in Berkeley during the past year. This brings the total to 52.2 miles of curbs constructed since the WPA project was begun in December, 1934. Remarkable is the fact that it was done at half the normal cost to the property owners. No cost through direct taxation.

As computed from building permits issued in 1936, there was a 100% increase in the value of buildings constructed over the figure for the previous year.

Berkeley citizens pay one-third of what they did fifteen years ago for the disposal of garbage.

The total number of miles of streets cleaned during 1936, if in a straight line, would reach from Berkeley to Chicago.

Plans have been completed for the construction of a subway under the Southern Pacific tracks at University Avenue and Third Street. The cost will be approximately \$250,000, which will be paid by the State of California.

Berkeley's death rate from tuberculosis is lower than it has been for thirty-one years. The national figures were approximately 600% greater than this city's rate of 7.2 per 100,000 population.

The death rate from all communicable diseases was at its lowest point in five years.

The City Manager's Report for the last fiscal year was again adjudged the best in the nation. A full page of recognition was recently accredited this report in the "Citizens' League Bulletin," Kansas City's weekly municipal newscaster.

18,006 trees were trimmed by the park department last year.

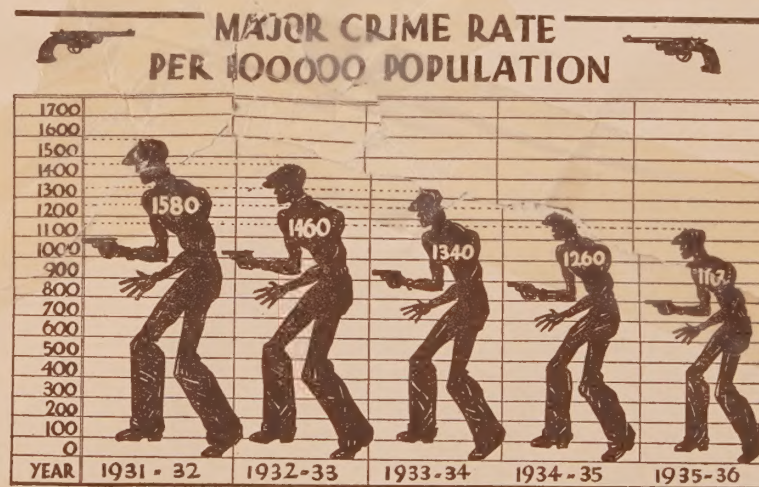
1100 rose plants are growing in Berkeley's new rose garden, on the slopes of Codornices Park.

Twenty-five fire alarm boxes and thirty-six thousand feet of lead covered cable were added to Berkeley's fire alarm system.

Berkeley has fewer policemen per 1000 population than any other city in its class range.

Berkeley operates the largest municipal police radio network in the United States, with 50,265 messages for 1936.

The burglary rate is 31% below the U. S. average, robbery 79%, and auto theft 76% below.



Berkeley's major crime rate has been reduced for the last five consecutive years.

Berkeley has the only completely motorized and radio equipped patrol force in the world.



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Berkeley's fire loss for the year 1936 was at its lowest point in more than a quarter of a century in spite of the fact that the population has more than doubled during this period.

FIRE LOSS

1928-'29 \$59,245	
1929-'30 \$69,945	
1930-'31 \$42,650	
1931-'32 \$30,840	
1932-'33 \$56,200	
1933-'34 \$16,145	
1934-'35 \$24,015	
1935-'36 \$18,245	

(Fire loss computed on a fiscal year basis.)

HERE IS WHAT A NATIONALLY KNOWN AUTHORITY IN THE FIELD OF PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION HAD TO SAY ABOUT BERKELEY

Mr. Fred Telford, director of municipal research for the New Jersey State Chamber of Commerce, made this remark concerning Berkeley's government: "Here in New Jersey we are talking constantly about Berkeley services and costs . . . We say it is the best governed city in the United States in that it furnishes its citizens more services and better services than any other municipality. In numerous ways we hold it up as an example that New Jersey cities should copy . . ."